

**MINUTES OF THE BORDER CONVENTION**  
**2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

held on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015

At The Roman Way Hotel, Watling Street, Cannock, Birmingham

**1. MEETING OPENS**

The Meeting was opened at 10.30 a.m. by the Chairman George Eltringham and the Secretary Colin Egner. The chairman welcomed all attendees and observers to the meeting. The attendees stood for a minutes silence in remembrance of past members.

**2. APOLOGIES for ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from: - Malcolm Barnett (IBBA)

**3. APPOINTMENT OF TELLER.**

Ivan Austin (North Staffs BFCC) was appointed as Teller. There were 14 clubs represented.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2014 A.G.M. (6<sup>th</sup> April 2014)**

It was proposed by Ivan Austin and seconded by John Beddows that the minutes from the 2014 AGM were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE.**

The secretary said that the only correspondence was from the East Of England B&FFCC but it was in connection with the mandates and as no discussion on the mandates is allowed it was not read out

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**

The President Malcolm Scott thanked the members for bestowing on him the position of President. He said that he was saddened by the numbers of fanciers who were leaving the fancy, either too old to carry on, disheartened or dying. He thought that the border fancy in general was decreasing at an alarming rate and a few of the clubs were struggling for administrators making it even more precarious. Bill Angus from the BCA in Scotland coined a phrase a couple of years ago, you need to have grey hair or no hair to keep border canaries and that is near to the truth. The upside of the current position is that the people who are still there are a good bunch of lads who work very hard to maintain the hobby. This is borne out by the number of problems we have at both the committee and the AGM, namely very few. These problems are ongoing administrative ones and there are none with the fanciers themselves. He thought that we should try to spread the load at club level to ensure the future of the specialist clubs. He wished the members a good year and hoped for a successful breeding season for all..

**7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

The chairman thanked the officers and members of the committee and also all of the delegates who had turned up to represent their clubs. He said the number of clubs who had sent delegates was disappointing (14 clubs) but it was good to see the delegates there. He said that some of the fancy do not back the Border Convention the way that they should or the way that they used to. George said that he agreed with Malcolm Scott that the fanciers are getting older and not being replaced and the day is fast approaching when some of the current officials will no longer be capable to take on the positions but in the meantime we will carry on for as long as we can.

**8. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Colin Egner said that his report was going to be much the same as the previous reports. He is receiving very little correspondence from the clubs because they are not using the facilities available. He said we have a web site and a journal which are primarily for the clubs. He accepted that many fanciers do not want to use the web site or emails or even writing a letter but if they picked up the phone Colin will make notes and put something together for them. He said that we have two very good mediums of advertising (Journal and Web Site) but the clubs do not use them to get the best out of them. He begged the clubs not in attendance at the AGM to contact him and tell him what they want. Some shows are holding their own or even increasing their numbers and that is to be commended. The IBBA and Cleveland both had increases in the last year, Colin asked if the fancy needs to amalgamate with other types of birds to get bird fanciers in general to look at borders. Colin's ambition for the next year is to make the clubs more high profile.

## **9. JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT**

Don Harrison informed the meeting that he been quite poorly over the beginning of this year and did know whether to carry on or not. He said that he still loves the fancy but queries the attitude of some fanciers who do not wish become involved at club level at all. He has had a very disappointing response to the clubs AGM reports, only 4 have responded. He has decided to carry on despite the lack of enthusiasm from the clubs. He said that he appeals to the clubs to forward details of their activities and any other journal content to him. He used to get details of the foreign clubs but no longer receives them and there are still clubs who have not sent in last years show reports. He needs email addresses for the club secretaries to keep them abreast of the journal requirements.

## **10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT**

Colin reported on the only event undertaken by the Border Convention which was a success with a table booked at Stafford, thanking Ivan Austin, Brian Martin and Jeff Pearse for assisting with the manning of the stand on the day. The team gave out information and old journals as well as taking journal subscriptions and ring sales. It was a successful day

## **11 WEBSITE**

Colin Egner said that the website is getting about 3,000 hits a month which rises to 5,000 a month for show reports and AGM's There have been 120,000 hits since the website was commissioned (2 years 4 months) but just like the journal it needs content. He asked the clubs for feedback but did not get any which could be a sign that all is well. He said that if any club wanted to put something on the web site but was unsure how to do it then just contact Colin and he will do it for them. Colin said that it is important for clubs to realise that it is not the Border Convention committee who own the web site but the clubs and it is there for their details. He is always looking for front page news, Obituaries, awards etc and he thanked the clubs who do keep the web site updated.

## **12. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF 2014 ACCOUNTS.**

Malcolm Scott handed out copies of the 2014 Border Convention Balance sheet and then explained the background to some of the financial entries. Journal sales are down but not horrendously so. The ring scheme made a better profit than the previous year. The postage for the journal has reduced and this is due to Ivan Austin buying his stamps from a company who give discount for bulk buying, he buys £700 face value of stamps for about £600 which is a tremendous saving. We have a very healthy bank balance and a reasonable profit has been achieved for 2014.

Malcolm Scott thanked Howard Kershaw for the audit and Howard then said that everything balanced ok. The balance sheet was proposed by Tim Ward and seconded by Don Harrison as a true reflection of the Border Convention accounts, this was carried..

## **13. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2016.**

It was proposed by Colin Egner and seconded by Jim Aitchison that the Club Affiliation remains the same at £25. An amendment to the proposal was put forward by Tim Ward and seconded by Brian Martin that free membership is given to any club who sends delegates to the AGM. This was carried unanimously.

## **14. HONORARIUMS.**

The current Honorariums were read out by George Eltringham and it was proposed by Tim Ward and seconded by Brian Martin that the Honorariums for the Secretary, Treasurer and Ring Scheme Organiser be increased by £50, it was also proposed by Jim Aitchison and seconded by Colin Egner that the Honorarium for the Journal Editor be increased by £200 and a one-off payment of £200 be paid to the journal editor for his work in producing the new Rule Book. These was all carried. The Honorariums for 2015 will therefore be as follows:-

Secretary	£350	-	Colin Egner
Treasurer	£200	-	Malcolm Scott
Journal Editor	£1000	-	Don Harrison
Ring Scheme Organiser	£250	-	Malcolm Scott

## 15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The chairman went through the officers individually and all officers were voted on by the attending delegates. All officers were elected unanimously.

The Northern Border have proposed George Eltringham for President at the next AGM.

	<u>2014 Elected</u>	<u>2015 Nominations</u>	<u>2015 Elected</u>
President:	Mr M Scott	No nomination	Mr M Scott
President Elect:		Mr. George Eltringham	
Chairman:	Mr. George Eltringham.	No nomination.	Mr. George Eltringham
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. Ray Morgan.	No nomination.	Mr. Ray Morgan
Secretary:	Mr Colin Egner.	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner
Treasurer:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Journal Editor:	Mr. Don Harrison.	No nomination	Mr. Don Harrison
Journal Distributor:	Mr Ivan Austin	No nomination	Mr Ivan Austin
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination.	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Publicity Officer:	Joint –Mr Colin Egner and Mr Don Harrison	No nomination	Joint –Mr Colin Egner and Mr Don Harrison
Auditor:	Mr Howard Kershaw.	Mr Ivan Austin	Mr Ivan Austin
Canary. Council:	Mr Colin Egner.	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner
Ring Scheme Sec	Mr. Malcolm Scott.	No nomination	Mr. Malcolm Scott
Novice Co-ordinator:	Mr Colin Egner	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner
Web Site Manager	Mr Colin Egner	No nomination	Mr Colin Egner

**Convention Committee:** Messrs. George Eltringham (Chairman), Ray Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Malcolm Scott (President & Treasurer), Brian Martin (Past President), Don Harrison (Journal Editor), Colin Egner (Secretary), Malcolm Barnett (Past President), Robert Norman (Past President), Jim Aitchison (Past President), Ivan Austin, Phil Dewland, Jeff Pearce, Julie Tooth., Paul Tooth. Tim Ward

The chairman asked for nominations for the committee. Tim Ward volunteered and was proposed by C.Egner seconded by M. Scott.

The chairman suggested clubs could propose fanciers who may be interested in joining the committee and they be co-opted at a later date.

## 16. MANDATES

### **Border Counties Mandate for change to Rule 10**

Exhibitors may use plain or mixed canary seed in a show cage.

The show cage floor covering at all specialist show shall be Oat husks.

### **Addition to Rule 10.**

In very exceptional circumstances a club **must apply** to the Border Convention for permission to use an alternative floor covering. The club applying must supply a sample of the proposed alternative floor covering for approval by the Border Convention. The applying club must then provide all exhibitors with the identical option to render all the cages to be indistinguishable by the judge

**Voting YES 13 NO 1 This was carried**

### **LB.B.A**

The displaying of a fanciers current year show team on social media sites before the start and during the duration of the show season is not permitted, it is only allowable when the fancier has finished his show season.

**Reason** Failing to do this could be construed that certain fanciers are trying to influence the judge prior to the birds being benched

**Voting YES 7 NO 7 - this gave the Chairman the casting vote, he voted no This was not carried**

## 17. JUDGES A & B PANEL.

### **A Panel**

Donald Saunders Southern Border & Fife Fancy Specialist Society

10 Berea Road, South Africa Charlo 6010 Tudor Gardens, Port Elisabeth, South Africa

## **B. Panel**

Jason Miller Merseyside BFCC Clockface Labour Club Clockface, St. Helens Merseyside Wa9 4TZ  
George Thompson Nottingham BFCC 96 Yorke Street, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire. NG19 9NQ

There were no objections to any of the proposed judges on the panels and Colin Egner will write to the new judges and inform them of the result.

The secretary reported that there were another 3 applications to go on to the judges panels which were not allowed for the following reasons, one application had not been signed by the club secretary or agreed at the club meeting, one fancier had been out of the country for a year and failed to meet the 5 continuous years rule, and one fancier had not completed 5 continuous years. All 3 applications are expected to be ok for this year (31<sup>st</sup> December cut off).

## **19. Recommended Classification**

The chairman ensured that all of the delegates had a copy of the proposed recommended classification for discussion. Don Harrison said that if all clubs used the same classification it would make his job easier but at the moment there were many different ones. Jim Aitchison said that the proposed recommended classification was ideal but it depended on the number of birds entered at a show. Too big a classification means classes of ones and twos. The chairman pointed out that as we are producing a new rule book we decided to look at the classification in the rule book and this will be a recommended classification not a standard classification. He also said that he thought that the proposed classification needed a better set of classes for white and allied colours. He also said that if this recommended classification goes on at some time in the future to become a standard classification then so be it, but at the moment we are trying to arrange a recommended classification. It was proposed to go with the classification with the following changes –Classes 43/44 (Champion) and 87/88 (Novice) be replaced with 2 classes for three parts dark White or Allied and 2 classes for self or foul Blue or Fawn. Don Harrison suggested 2 classes for junior birds cock/hen. This was also agreed.

## **20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Raffle for £100**

The names of the clubs in attendance were put into a hat and Ray Morgan drew out Fauldhouse B&FFCC as the winner of the £100 donation from the Border Convention.

### **Journal Posting**

Don Harrison reported to the meeting that the printing company that we use (WPG) has taken over a mail distribution company and we should investigate the possibility of using this service to send the journals out directly from printing. Don presented the costs and the meeting was very interested in possibilities. It was pointed out that mailing firms receive a discount for bulk mailing which means that they will charge us less for the actual postage but there will be charge for the service. Don will look into the costs and report back to the committee with a view to using this service.

### **Rosettes –**

Colin Egner had brought the Convention Rosettes to the meeting for clubs to take and save postage. He asked again if clubs could please include the allocation of the Border Convention rosettes in their schedules..

### **Rings**

The quality of the rings sold by the Border Convention in 2014 was discussed. Malcolm Scott restated what had been said at the January Committee meeting that he has been in touch with A C Hughes the ring supplier and they said that they thought that the problem was mostly down to the colour for 2014 (light green) which had a white number infill. Malcolm had suggested to them that they could use black for the infill number but they thought that a change of the colour from light green to dark green would be better. To do this the Border Convention would have to contact the C.O.M. as we follow their colour sequence. Because of the ring colour sequence this colour will not be used again for 6 years. Some of the attendees said that there have been problems over the past few years with the infill colour. Malcolm said that he had brought that problem up with A C Hughes who have said that they will look at their machinery to ensure the imprint number is ok. As far as

the colour for last year and the colour of the infill Malcolm suggested that we go to the Canary Council with our problem to see what their recommendations are.

## **21. DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Border Convention Committee Meeting is arranged for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Border Convention AGM for 2016 - Probably the first Sunday in April 2016

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT (24):**

M. Scott (President/Treasurer/Northern BFCC), G Eltringham (Chairman), R Morgan (Vice Chairman), C Egner (Secretary/IBBA), D. Harrison (Journal Editor/Northern Ireland BFCC); B. Martin (Border Counties BFCC),,

R Norman ((Fauldhouse B&FFCC), J Aitchison (BFCC), J Balme (Doncaster BFCC), K Howsam (Doncaster BFCC),

I. Austin (North Staffs BFCC), J Pearce (North Staffs BFCC), T Ward (British BFCC), S Lucas (Merseyside),

H. Kershaw (Wessex Border), I Perrier (Wexford BFCC), J. Beddows (Border Counties BFCC), P. Dewland (Cornish BFCC), L Smith (Birmingham ABC), A Smith (Birmingham ABC),

## **Delegates representing 14 clubs were present:**

Border FCC, Birmingham ABC, Border Counties, British Border FCC, Doncaster BFCC, IBBA , Northern BFCC, North Staffs BFCC, Wessex BFCC, Wexford BFCC, Cornish BFCC, Merseyside B&FFCC, Northern Ireland BFCC, Fauldhouse (B&FFCC).

## **Clubs Not in Attendance:**

Border Canary Ass., Cumbria BFCC, Cleveland BFCC, East of England B&FFCC, Green Cinnamon & White BFCC, , Midland Counties BFCC, Northampton AB&FFCC, North of Scotland BFCC, North Wales BFCC, Nottinghamshire BFCC, Scottish All Border FCC, Southern BFCC,. Sussex & Kent BFCC, West Wales BFCC, West of Scotland BCA,. And all other clubs from Ireland and abroad.